



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Pre-session working group

Fifty-seventh session

Geneva, 29 July-2 August 2013

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the pre-session working group

1. It is the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to convene a pre-session working group for five days to prepare lists of issues relating to the initial and periodic reports that will be considered by the Committee at one of its future sessions.
2. The Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the fifty-seventh session of the Committee would meet from 29 July to 2 August 2013, immediately after the fifty-fifth session, in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to States parties to submit their written replies to the lists of issues, as well as to ensure their timely translation.
3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-session working group:

Ms. Ayse Feride Acar
Ms. Olinda Barreiro-Bobadilla
Ms. Nahla Haidar
Ms. Pramila Patten
Ms. Dubravka Simonovic
4. The pre-session working group elected Ms. Patten as its Chair.
5. The pre-session working group prepared lists of issues with respect to the reports of Bahrain, Cameroon, Finland, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Qatar and Sierra Leone. In that regard, the pre-session working group was guided by Committee decision 49/IX, according to which the Committee decided to limit the lists of issues to 20 questions. In practice and exceptionally, some lists of issues contain 22 questions. It was noted that the adoption of the list of issues with respect to the third to seventh



combined periodic report of Senegal (in the absence of a report) was postponed since the State party had submitted its report on 31 July 2013.

6. To assist in the preparation of the lists of issues, the pre-session working group had before it the reports of the States parties listed above, as well as the States parties' core documents; the general recommendations adopted by the Committee; background information and draft lists of issues prepared by the Secretariat, based on an analytical comparison of the current reports of States parties and the discussion of the Committee on earlier reports; and other pertinent information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, if relevant. In preparing the lists of issues for periodic reports, the pre-session working group paid particular attention to the States parties' follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee on its previous reports.

7. The pre-session working group benefited from written and oral information submitted by entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

8. The lists of issues adopted by the pre-session working group were transmitted to the States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

(a) List of issues in relation to the third periodic report of Bahrain ([CEDAW/C/BHR/Q/3](#));

(b) List of issues in relation to the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Cameroon ([CEDAW/C/CMR/Q/4-5](#));

(c) List of issues in relation to the seventh periodic report of Finland ([CEDAW/C/FIN/Q/7](#));

(d) List of issues in relation to the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports of Iraq ([CEDAW/C/IRQ/Q/4-6](#));

(e) List of issues in relation to the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Kazakhstan ([CEDAW/C/KAZ/Q/3-4](#));

(f) List of issues in relation to the initial report of Qatar ([CEDAW/C/QAT/Q/1](#));

(g) List of issues in relation to the sixth periodic report of Sierra Leone ([CEDAW/C/SLE/Q/6](#)).

9. In accordance with Committee decisions 22/IV, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focused on themes addressed by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The themes included the constitutional and legislative framework and women, peace and security, where applicable; national machinery for the advancement of women; stereotypes and harmful practices; violence against women, including domestic violence; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in decision-making; education and training; employment; health; social and economic benefits; rural women; the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities, and refugee and migrant women; equality before the law; and marriage and family relations.